



# Ashanti

# Hamilton

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**1st District Alderman**

**Spring-Summer Newsletter 2005**

## Dear 1st District Residents,

There are many challenges facing the city and 1st District again this year, and as summer approaches, I want to again assure you that my office will continue to work hard to represent you and respond to your questions and concerns.

To stay in touch with you, I have included information in this newsletter about how to contact my office by telephone, e-mail or in person. In addition, I will hold public town hall meetings on June 28 and July 26 (See meeting details at right).

In this newsletter, you will read about my efforts to assist economic development in the district, promote responsible gun ownership and keep violent sex offenders from our neighborhoods. In addition, I'm proud to highlight the achievements of some 1st District teenagers, and am also including helpful information and reminders about a variety of city services, and how to contact agencies for assistance.

If you have additional needs that I can assist you with or suggestions for improving the city, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please have a safe and enjoyable summer season.

Sincerely,

**Ashanti Hamilton,  
Alderman - 1st District**



## Welcome To Milwaukee.gov's New Portal Page



Looking for a high-tech way to keep informed about what's happening in the 1st District, the city and the county? If you have a computer and Internet access, finding government information and services online just got a lot easier. Go to [www.milwaukee.gov](http://www.milwaukee.gov), simply type a keyword or phrase in the site section and click GO. The new search engine will take you to the proper department in either the city or the county.

You can also click on a city initiative called **E-Service**. This is an online request form that allows citizens to request a service without knowing which city department provides that service. And after submitting your request, you can easily check its status by simply entering your e-mail address and a password. Ald. Hamilton says **E-Service** cuts at least two-days off the usual process.

And there's still another way in which the city communicates with its citizens. It's called **E-Notify**. This easy-to-use, electronic communication tool allows the city to send such information as city news, police crime bulletins by neighborhood, meeting and bid notices and many other topics to subscribers' email accounts based on selections made by the individual citizen.

Ald. Hamilton says 1st District residents demand increased government responsiveness, and **E-notify** provides a cost-effective, time-efficient, technologically advanced solution that reduces staff time, paper and postage costs. **E-Notify** is available on the City Home Page. Of course you can always use the telephone to contact Ald. Hamilton or write to him with your concerns. And you can also call the **Department of Public Works Call Center** at **286-8282** or the **Department of Neighborhood Services** at **286-2268**.

## Ald. Hamilton Sets 2 Town Hall Meetings

Ald. Hamilton has scheduled two town hall meetings in order to meet with residents and discuss important issues affecting the 1st District and the city. The meetings, starting at 6:30 p.m., will be held at the following dates and locations:

**June 28**

**Rufus King High School  
1801 W. Olive St.**

**July 26**

**Our Lady of Good Hope Rectory  
3937 W. Good Hope Rd.**

Representatives of city departments will attend with Ald. Hamilton to answer your questions about specific neighborhood issues.

## Alderman Hamilton's Committee Assignments

### Chair

- City Information Management Committee

### Vice-Chair

- Judiciary & Legislation

### Member

- Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development
- Community & Economic Development
- Library Board

# KEEPING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS CLEAN AND SAFE

## Keeping Violent Sex Offender Facility Out Of District

"There will be no end to the fight until they walk away," said Ald. Hamilton about attempts to locate a group home for sexually violent criminals in the 1st District. And the alderman claimed a victory for neighborhood residents when the proposed site for the state-run facility for violent sexual offenders at 3751 W. Mill Rd. was withdrawn from consideration.

Opponents had argued that 14 schools and 74 daycare facilities are within two miles of the Mill Road property. About 160 people turned out to protest the site at a meeting organized by Ald. Hamilton. "Locating a transitional home for sexually violent offenders anywhere in the 1st District would put it too close to children and threaten the safety of our neighborhoods," said Ald. Hamilton.

## New Board-up Plan To Reduce Blight

If a property in the 1st District is boarded up for more than six months, there had better be a good reason or the city will step in and demand action.



A new ordinance supported by Ald. Hamilton will force owners of boarded-up buildings to repair or sell their properties instead of leaving them empty. The

ordinance, which took effect March 11, 2005, aims to reduce the number of buildings with green plywood covering windows and doors in many neighborhoods. Property owners have six months to act after a board-up. Among their options, they can remove the plywood if they have a way to lock and secure the building, demonstrate they are trying to sell the property, submit a plan for completing repairs to the structure or present a demolition permit.

There could be fines, re-inspection fees from the city or having the building declared a nuisance. Contact the Department of Neighborhood Services at **286-2268** with any complaints.

## Ald. Hamilton Endorses Responsible Gun Ownership



Ald. Hamilton at a news conference calling for state legislation to require that private gun sales by citizens be recorded. With him from left, State Sen. Spencer Coggs, Ald. Michael J. Murphy, Marna Winbush and Debra Fifer (not visible) whose sons were killed by gunfire, and Ald. Willie L. Hines, Jr. The event was held at a Walgreen's at N. 35th St. and W. Wisconsin Ave. where an illegally bought gun was used in a homicide.

After their sons were killed by gun violence in Milwaukee on September 24, 2003, three mothers discovered the young men were killed by a weapon sold to a felon by a private citizen. And they found there is no requirement that private gun sales be recorded. Ald. Hamilton has joined with the three women and others in calling for state legislation to mandate that private citizens record private gun sales.

Ald. Hamilton sponsored a city resolution in support of the Responsible Gun Ownership Bill (SB 148) now before the state legislature. "I agree with the moms that allowing private gun sales without a recording requirement has created an illegal gun market, and is an oversight in the law that needs to be corrected," said Ald. Hamilton.



Ald. Hamilton sponsored a city hall exhibit with Mothers Against Gun Violence called "Life & Death- Today's Holocaust." The exhibit displayed photos, personal effects and life size images of victims of gun homicides in Milwaukee.

The bill is sponsored at the state level by Sen. Spencer Coggs and state Rep. Leon Young. The gun ownership registry system would track private gun sales in much the same way that vehicle title transfers are recorded.

## Planning A Block Party?

There are no fees for residential block parties but you'll need a block party permit and approval from the alderman. Call or visit the Special Event permit office to obtain a block party permit application. After completing the application, return it to Ald. Hamilton. During June, July and August, applications are not accepted any later than two weeks before the event.

Ald. Hamilton says for first-time events you may be required to obtain signatures and distribute informational flyers about the event to those living and working in the area affected. Call the special event permit office at 286-3329 or stop at Room 515 at 841 N. Broadway to get a block party application.



## Keeping Youngsters Safe From Fast-Flowing Waters

Heavy spring and summer rains often create hazardous swift-water conditions in Milwaukee's creeks and rivers. And too often a youngster drowns in those rapid waters. Ald. Hamilton wants parents to be proactive in warning their children about the dangers of playing along city waterways. "Especially after a hard rain, children are attracted to swift waters as if they were water parks," said Ald. Hamilton. "All it takes is one second for a child to fall into a creek or river and be swept away."

### The message from Milwaukee's Water Safe Kids committee:

- Supervision - Always supervise children when playing in or near water
- Prevention - Learn how to swim
- Get Help - Call 911 or get an adult
- Safe Play - Play in areas of water where lifeguards/adults are present

**Milwaukee County Parks will be offering free swimming lessons this summer, targeting children ages six to 12.** Kosciuszko Park's Pelican Cove, and Lincoln and Washington Parks will offer the lessons on Saturdays from June 25th to August 13th. Registration will be June 20th to 24th from noon to 4:00 p.m. at each of the three pools. For more information on the free lessons call **257-8025**.

## Special Spring Safety Tips

Residents of the 1st District have a lot of opportunities this spring and summer for fun activities, but Ald. Hamilton says while those outdoor activities we've waited for can be enjoyable and beneficial, there are a variety of health and safety hazards you can avoid with proper precautions.

### Itching to get the yard in shape for the summer? Some tips:

- Wear protective clothing when handling pesticides & fertilizers
- Rake loose stones and debris before mowing - 60,000 people go to emergency rooms each year for lawn-mower injuries
- Read the instructions before using trimmers, pruners etc. - 55,000 sustain injuries each year from power equipment
- Use the right ladder for the job - 145,000 visit the hospital each year with ladder mishaps



**Ald. Hamilton discusses some issues with Marianne Andritsch, Agape Community Center director of development, on the center's playground area during a recent visit. Two young boys - neighborhood residents who are frequent patrons of the community center - were nearby and busy having fun on the equipment.**

## Thriving People-Vibrant Neighborhoods

The above headline clearly states the goal of the **Agape Community Center**. The Agape Community Center, located in the 1st District at 6100 N. 42nd St., has been a beacon of hope, determination, support and success for thousands of area residents since 1986. Ald. Hamilton is proud to represent the community center, which provides a broad range of educational, social, recreational, cultural, health and life-long learning opportunities.

Agape is a Greek word with two meanings. It signifies a communal meal. The term also relates to an unselfish love of one person for another. Last year alone, with the help of hundreds of individuals, corporations, foundations and faith-based organizations, volunteers contributed thousands of hours to providing 17,800 community meals, 2,450 summer lunches to youth, 7,500 hours to one-on-one mentoring, providing

after school activities on 225 days for 7-12 year olds and many other activities for youth and adults.

Agape Community Center is a subsidiary of **Ministry Health Care**, and both are sponsored by the **Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother**. Its programs and services are available to all Milwaukee County residents, but are concentrated on the 25,000 neighbors in the area from N. Green Bay Rd. to N. 51st St., and from W. Villard Ave. to W. Good Hope Rd.

"Agape Community Center shares my goals for the district," said Ald. Hamilton, "promoting the kind of resident involvement and home ownership that will bring about vibrant neighborhoods where people want to live." If you would like to inquire about their programs and services you can call **Agape Community Center at 464-4440**.

## Keeping Our Neighborhoods Clean

Ald. Hamilton wants to stress that there has been a major change in the way the city collects bulk materials. Many of the bulky items once collected in "special pickups" such as sofas or large amounts of trash are now collected by sanitation crews on their regular weekly routes. It's a change that is expected to save taxpayers about \$710,000 a year.

You should also be aware that:

- Washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators and air conditioners will no longer be collected.
- There are limits on yard waste and brush.

- You can take bulky items, yard waste, old tires and other household materials to the Self-Help Center at 6660 N. Industrial Rd.

You can put up to four cubic yards of material, about the size of two sofas, out on your regular garbage collection day. Call the **DPW Call Center at 286-8282** for pickup of larger amounts or other information. To dispose of hazardous household wastes such as old gas oil and cleaning chemicals, check the **Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District at 225-2066** for collection sites.

# Alderman Reaffirms Commitment to Black Community

On **October 16, 2005**, African American men and women will commemorate the **10th anniversary of the Million Man March in Washington, D.C.**, with an event that's being called the **"Millions More Movement."** Ald. Hamilton, who has been a part of the local organizing committee for the Million Man March since it began, has joined with other Black leaders in the community to support this year's march, and to publicly affirm their commitment to the black community.

Ald. Hamilton recently brought together a group of local Black leaders to demonstrate their unity by signing a covenant of accountability to Black people in this community and throughout America. "Serious problems still plague black America and we must continue to address the social ills of the black community," said Ald. Hamilton.

"I agree with Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan that our unity, the pooling of our resources, financially and intellectually will solve 95% of our problems," the alderman said, adding that those who travel to Washington for the march in October will be "making their voices heard."



Black community leaders gathered at the request of Ald. Hamilton to sign a document entitled "A Declaration for a Covenant with God, Leadership and Our People as they prepare for the 10th anniversary of the Million Man March." Pictured at the event, Ald. Hamilton, Minister William Muhammad (standing behind Ald. Hamilton), local representative of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan) and State Sen. Spencer Coggins.



## 1st District Youth Council Member Named

Milwaukee's first-ever **Youth Council** members are ready to let city leaders know what they believe are the important issues facing teens in the city today. Ald. Hamilton was one of the co-sponsors of the legislation that created the 15-member council, one from each aldermanic district. They were officially confirmed by the Common Council on May 3, and sworn in during a special ceremony at City Hall May 9.



Andrew C. Ellis, a junior at Young/Coggs Preparatory Academy has been named the 1st District representative on Milwaukee's new Youth Council.

The 1st District representative on the Youth Council is 18-year-old **Andrew C. Ellis**, a junior at Young/Coggs Preparatory Academy. Andrew plans to go to college and pursue a degree in business administration. He would then like to start what he calls a "teenpreneur club," where young people would learn how to turn their dreams and ideas into reality.

Andrew says volunteering with young people at the **Boys and Girls Club** and at **Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of**

**God in Christ** have helped him grow as an individual and he's committed to bringing a positive attitude and energy to the council. Five important issues Andrew feels should be addressed by the City of Milwaukee Youth Council:

- Homes without father figures
- Placement homes for foster children
- Effect on children with incarcerated parents
- Youth recreational programs
- Jobs for young people

Ald. Hamilton congratulated Andrew and welcomed him to city government. "This is a major step toward empowering the youth of our community," said Ald. Hamilton. "This unique new body needs young leaders like Andrew Ellis who are drawn to public service and believe in doing what they can to help other young people in Milwaukee."

Approximately 10% of annual city **Community Development Block Grant reprogramming** dollars will be allocated to support the recommendations of the council for youth service activities and other objectives. The Common Council has the final word on Youth Council recommendations. A seven-member advisory committee will assist the Youth Council in its work.



Ald. Hamilton wants to congratulate 16-year-old Rokeeya Massey, a junior at Custer High School for her achievements, and plans to highlight the accomplishments of other 1st District students in later newsletters.

## Achievements & Successes Of Our Teenagers

Looking for some positive news about youngsters in the 1st District? Are you tired of hearing disturbing stories about many of our young people? So is Ald. Hamilton, and in this first of what will be a series on the achievements of our youth, the alderman recognizes the efforts of 16-year-old **Rokeeya Massey**, a junior at **Custer High School**.

**Rokeeya's accomplishments:** A 3.4 grade average overall, 3.8 in the last marking period, ranking her 5th out of 251 students. In addition she's been involved in cheerleading, tennis and softball at Custer, is a member of her church choir, and she has helped tutor other students. Rokeeya was nominated by her mother, Hannah, who says she's very proud of her daughter and other young people who are honor students and hard workers who understand the importance of an education.

Ald. Hamilton agrees with Mrs. Massey that by calling attention to the accomplishments of our young people, others may be encouraged to not give up, and realize that they too can "be in the spotlight." If you'd like to suggest someone for this recognition, please contact the alderman's office at **286-2228**.



## Aldrich Chemical Completes Move

The expansion of the Aldrich Chemical Company operations at 6000 N. Teutonia Ave. has been completed. And Ald. Hamilton welcomes the more than 400 employees from the downtown Aldrich facility to the 1st District and thanks the company for its decision to remain in Milwaukee.

Aldrich had to move its operation from downtown to the Teutonia Ave. facility after the state bought the company's eight-story building in the middle of the Marquette Interchange freeway ramps for

the interchange reconstruction. The \$65 million project includes research and quality-control facilities, production labs, packaging operations, warehouses and administrative offices.

Concerned that Aldrich Chemical might move its work out of the city, the Common Council approved a \$5 million dollar plan to help the company finance the project. The money will be repaid through property tax revenue generated by the new buildings and improvements at the Teutonia Ave. complex.



**Ald. Hamilton visited Aldrich Chemical Co. recently to meet with company president Joe Porwoll (pictured with the alderman) and to thank him for the company's recently completed expansion project. More than 400 employees from Aldrich's downtown facility now work at the expanded company location at 6000 N. Teutonia Ave., located in the 1st Aldermanic District.**

## Bishop's Creek Brings New Economic Development

Holy Redeemer Institutional COGIC and its Bishop's Creek Community Redevelopment Corporation are planning a multi-million dollar mixed use development on the former Kaiser tannery site at N. 32nd and W. Hampton Ave. Bishop's Creek is seen as a catalyst for economic revitalization along the W. Hampton Ave. corridor.



## New Grocery Store To Boost District Economy

A major business expansion is underway in the 1st District that will give families another place to get groceries and provide jobs for residents.

Milwaukee's minority-owned Lena's Food Market chain is at the center of a \$3.7 million investment by the Wisconsin Community Development Legacy Fund. "This expansion will enable Lena's to be more competitive and most importantly create 145 jobs," said Ald. Hamilton. The store is expected to open this summer.

Federal tax credits will help Lena's re-develop the 33,000 square-foot building that formerly housed a Kohl's Food Store at 4030 W. Teutonia Ave. In addition, Lena's will develop warehouse space at 2930 W. Center St. and retail space at the corner of W. Capitol Dr. and N. Teutonia Ave. A Subway franchise restaurant and Family Dollar retail store will be among its retail tenants.



**The former Kohl's Grocery store at 4030 N. Teutonia Ave. will soon be stocked with your favorite foods as it is scheduled to become a Lena's Food Market.**

The Martin family has owned and operated grocery stores in Milwaukee for more than 35 years, employing more than 200 people at three other stores. "This is a great example of the progress being made in helping minority businesses grow and prosper," said Ald. Hamilton. "These tax credits will enable an important, minority-owned business to better serve the community."

## Be Alert to Changing Traffic Patterns on Teutonia Ave.

Marquette Interchange reconstruction isn't the only project that will affect your travels this summer. The city has begun to reconstruct one of the main thoroughfares in the 1st District, N. Teutonia Ave. from W. Ruby Ave. to W. Villard Ave.

North Teutonia will be open to traffic with one lane in each direction, except for several days when the railroad tracks just south of W. Hampton Ave. will be removed. Ald. Hamilton says N. Teutonia Ave. is an important lifeline for the neighborhood, a critical artery for commerce and transportation. "I want to urge all residents and those who travel the route to continue to patronize the businesses along the affected stretch of N. Teutonia Ave. during the construction period," Ald. Hamilton said. "It's important that the message be stated clearly that Teutonia Avenue will be open for business."

Construction is scheduled to continue until October on the street, where the existing pavement dates to 1976. Work at the W. Cornell Ave., W. Hampton Ave. and W. Villard Ave. intersections will be done in stages to assist traffic flow. **North Green Bay Road and W. Atkinson Ave. can be used as alternate routes.** State transportation funds pay for 80% of the concrete paving, with the city picking up 20%.



# Ashanti Hamilton

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[www.milwaukee.gov/district1](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district1)

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## 2005 Summer Festivals

<b>June 1-Aug 31</b>	<b>Westown's River Rhythms, Pere Marquette Park</b>
June 2—Sept 15	Jazz in the Park, Cathedral Square
<b>June 17-19</b>	<b>Asian Moon Festival, Maier Festival Park</b>
June 19	Juneteenth Day, Martin Luther King Drive
<b>June 21-Aug 16</b>	<b>Live at the Center, Marcus Center</b>
June 24-26	Polish Fest, Maier Festival Park
<b>June 30-July 10</b>	<b>Summerfest, Maier Festival Park</b>
July 14-17	Bastille Days, Maier Festival Park
<b>July 15-17</b>	<b>South Shore Frolics, South Shore Park</b>
July 21-24	Festa Italiana, Maier Festival Park
<b>July 29-31</b>	<b>German Fest, Maier Festival Park</b>
Aug. 4-14	Wisconsin State Fair, Wis. State Fair Park
<b>Aug. 5-26</b>	<b>River Flicks, Pere Marquette Park</b>
Aug. 5-7	African World Festival, Maier Festival Park
<b>Aug. 5-6</b>	<b>Jazz Festival, Historic Third Ward</b>
Aug. 18-21	Irish Fest, Maier Festival Park
<b>Aug. 26-28</b>	<b>Mexican Fiesta, Maier Festival Park</b>
Sept. 9-11	Indian Summer Festival, Maier Festival Park

## Other Events

<b>June 4-Oct 8</b>	<b>East Town Farm Market, Cathedral Square</b>
June 17-19	Lakefront Festival of the Arts, Veterans Park
<b>June 22-Oct 26</b>	<b>Westown Farmer's Market, Zeidler Union Square</b>
July 3	U.S. Bank fireworks, Veterans Park

To find out more about the events listed, call **VISIT Milwaukee** (formerly the Greater Milwaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau) at **1-800-554-1448** or go to [www.milwaukee.org](http://www.milwaukee.org). For information about Independence Day activities sponsored by the City of Milwaukee, call the **Department of City Development** at **286-5794**.



## A Link To Healthier Child Care In Milwaukee

Good health is important during early childhood years because healthy children grow strong and learn better. And Ald. Hamilton wants early childhood professionals and parents to know about a new initiative that

can provide the resources and support they need to promote ongoing, healthy early childhood education and care.

“**Thing Big. Start Small**” is the name of a new website, sponsored by the Milwaukee Health Department and 4C Community Coordinated Child Care, which targets early child care providers and offers valuable health information.

Click on [www.thinkbigsmartsml.com](http://www.thinkbigsmartsml.com) and you have access to free downloadable health and safety tip sheets for child care providers and parents, an “Ask an Expert” section which is an opportunity to ask health department child care consultants child health questions, a free subscription to the online newsletter “Health Matters” and health and safety consultation services to eligible child care programs.

“I encourage child care providers and parents to subscribe to the e-newsletter,” said Ald. Hamilton. “Stay current on the health and safety issues most likely to affect the children in child care and support child care providers and parents as they work to promote healthier child care for all.”

## Free Meals For Milwaukee Kids This Summer

Many Milwaukee children can receive free nutritious meals every weekday this summer. Certain public schools will be open to serve breakfast and lunch as part of the “**Fueling Young Minds**” program, made possible through the support of the **Harley-Davidson Foundation**. To find the meal site nearest you in the 1st District check the enclosed list or call the **Summer Meals Hotline** at **211**.

- **Custer High School, 5075 N. Sherman Blvd.**
- **Garden Homes Elementary, 4456 N. Teutonia Ave.**
- **Hampton Elementary, 5000 N. 53rd St.**
- **Silver Spring Elementary, 5131 N. Green Bay Ave.**

## Summer Reading And Fun At The Library

It's time to gear up for this year's summer reading program at the **Milwaukee Public Library**. There are hundreds of programs for preschoolers, kids and teens. Registration begins June 1, 2005 at all library locations including **Villard Avenue Library at 3310 W. Villard Ave.** and **Atkinson Library at 1960 W. Atkinson Ave.** The Villard and Atkinson libraries also offer computer classes during the summer, free, two-hour, hands-on classes covering computer basics.

Visit your nearest library or log on to [www.mpl.org](http://www.mpl.org) for a complete schedule of all programs and classes and to register. Space is limited. These classes are made possible through funding by the Northwestern Mutual Foundation.